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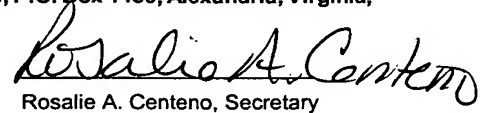
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Rosalie A. Centeno, Secretary

In the Application of: Rolf Plotz

Ser.No.: 10/531,503 (Based on PCT/EP2003/011282 filed October 11, 2003 and DE 102 47 751.5 filed October 13, 2002)

For: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR WELDING RAILS WITH HAT TREATED HEAD USING SEPARATE ALLOY ADDITIVES

Filed on: April 13, 2005

Customer Number: 30996

Commissioner of Patents

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING PCT NATIONAL STAGE APPLICATION**

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified National Stage PCT application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 5 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**